

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A transmission rate control method controlling a transmission rate by dynamically switching between at least two sets of video data encoded from at least one viewpoint of encoding rate variation, motion priority and image quality priority, in accordance with a change of an available transmission bandwidth or a user instruction.

2. The transmission rate control method according to claim 1,

comprising a step of preparing a video file including said at least two sets of video data, created beforehand based on the same content.

3. The transmission rate control method according to claim 2,

wherein said preparation step comprises a step of recording at least two video data portions, one of which is to be sent at a certain time, as one access unit into the video file.

4. The transmission rate control method according to claim 2,

wherein said preparation step comprises a step of recording a plurality of video data sets having different degrees of error robustness in the video file.

5. The transmission rate control method according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

estimating available transmission bandwidth;

5 selecting one of said at least two sets of video data in accordance with the available transmission bandwidth; and

sending the selected video data.

10 6. The transmission rate control method according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

receiving a motion/image quality priority instruction from a user;

15 selecting one of said at least two sets of video data in accordance with the motion/image quality priority instruction; and

sending the selected video data.

20 7. The transmission rate control method according to claim 1, comprising a step of selecting video data after switching based on encoding parameters of the video data before switching.